Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

More on London Talks Concerning South Africa

Delegations Honor News Embargo

FL0405135088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The 1st working day of the quadripartite meeting to negotiate solutions to the conflict in South Africa has ended in London. The participants of the meeting have agreed to honor a news embargo on the development of the sessions.

A joint Angolan-Cuban delegation and representatives from the U.S. and South African Governments are participating in the conference.

Risquet: Talks 'Constructive'

FL0405163088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1607 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The meeting between an Angolan-Cuban delegation and representatives of the United States and South Africa has taken place in a constructive atmosphere and has achieved progress, according to a press statement jointly issued today in London, Great Britain.

The document notes that the parties agreed to hold another meeting in an African country in the near future. According to conference sources, the agenda will be secret.

The Angolan-Cuban delegation was headed by Afonso Van Dunem, Angolan foreign minister, and Jorge Risquet, member of the PCC Politburo and Secretariat. Responding to reporters, Risquet confirmed that the talks evolved in a constructive atmosphere and that a meeting will be held in the near future with the parties involved in the one just concluded.

Next Meeting Planned 'Soon'

FL0405234988 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] A joint communique of a four-way meeting on the situation in southern Africa, which ended in London today, reported that a similar meeting will take place in an African country soon. Part of the document says: Delegations of the Republic of South Africa, the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cuba, and the United States of America met in London on 3 and 4 May 1988 to discuss the situation in the southwestern African region. The meeting took place in a constructive atmosphere and progress was made. The parties agreed to hold the next meeting in an African country in the near future.

Elsewhere in the joint declaration the participants expressed their appreciation to the British Government for agreeing to allow this meeting to be held there. The document ends with a list of names and titles of the participants.

Further on Rodriguez Remarks Concerning Debt

FL0405182588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 May 88

[Report by Marta Valverde from Rio de Janeiro]

[Text] The press has responded to the new speech given by Cuban Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez at the seminar on the foreign debt in Brasilia.

JORNAL DO BRASIL, the paper with the largest national circulation, carried the following as its headline in its Wednesday edition: Cuban Leader Wants Permanent Forum To Debate Foreign Debt.

In his speech, Rodriguez expressed concern over the statements made by Brazilian Finance Minister Mailson Nobrega, says the paper. Nobrega said that Brazil wants to normalize relations between the governments and creditor banks.

Normalizing the situation with creditor banks would only result in paying interest on the debt without any benefit to the debtors, said the Cuban vice president. The demands the debtors have made to the banks have never been handled, said Rodriguez.

JORNAL DO BRASIL and radio stations have reported on the suggestion made by the Cuban vice president to create a forum of debtors so that there can be permanent discussion of the foreign debt. He said that Latin America should be the vanguard of this position in view of a debt that is immoral and illegal.

Payment of the debt is immoral, said Rodriguez, because the peoples are not responsible for debts incurred by authoritarian governments.

The media also reported on the statistics pertaining to the Latin American foreign debt which were presented by the Cuban vice president at the seminar in Brasilia.

The seminar is entitled: Foreign Debt; Practical Solutions. It will conclude tomorrow. The event has been organized by the Third World Foundation and has the support of the University of Brazil.

Natural Resources Protocol Signed With USSR

FL2904221588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] According to a protocol signed by Cuban and Soviet representatives in Moscow this Thursday, the USSR will provide Cuba assistance in preparing supply

programs from natural resources until 1995. The document was signed by Soviet Geology Minister Yevgeniy Kozlovskiy and Cuban Basic Industry Minister Marcos Portal.

Talks on Trade Cooperation With Mexico Begin

FL2804221588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1942 GMT 28 Apr 88

[Text] The second round of talks of the finance working group began in Havana today as part of the activities of the Cuba-Mexico general intergovernmental meeting.

The study of mechanisms to facilitate trade cooperation and ways in which to expand it in 1988 are among the main objectives of the meeting. A financial agreement will be signed during the sessions. The agreement will set the working guidelines in the sphere and will be instrumental in the exchange of views on the current international monetary situation.

Financial Accord Signed

FL3004033388 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 30 Apr 88

[Text] Representatives from the United Mexican States and the Republic of Cuba signed today an agreement within the framework of finance cooperation and the memorandum of the second meeting of the work group on finance matters.

Austrian Official Praises Care of Prisoners

FL0305134088 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Otto Mueller, attorney general of Austria, has praised the treatment and the care that prisoners receive in Cuba.

Mueller, who made an official visit to Cuba, said he admired how prisoners in Cuba receive the same salary as anyone else for their work. He also praised the existence of rooms for the married.

UNESCO Supports Old Havana Restoration

FL2904234088 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1935 GMT 29 Apr 88

[Text] Dr (Ann Reid), director of UNESCO's Heritage Division, is in our country at the invitation of the Culture Ministry. The UN official visited the city of Trinidad. Cuba has proposed that this city be considered as an international cultural monument. Plaza Vieja was among the places Dr (Reid) toured in Havana.

With regard to Trinidad, she said the Cuban proposal will be studied by the proper commissions next year. Dr (Reid) said she had liked the natural setting in which the old city is located and that the landscape shows no sign of deterioration. She also praised the work our country is doing to preserve the Plaza Vieja in the capital municipality of Habana Vieja.

The official also stated that UNESCO's Heritage Division is interested in promoting the restoration program being carried out in Plaza Vieja. She added that to date UNESCO has cooperated in technical and evaluation tasks because the conservation and construction part of the project is being done by Cuban authorities.

Dr (Ann Reid) added that she visited the Ministry of Culture's National Conservation, Restoration, and Museology Center in Havana where she saw how efficiently important tasks were being carried out.

Mr Carlos Laso Frias, director of the regional office and representative of UNESCO in Cuba, participated in the news conference given by Dr (Reid) today.

Correction to Castro Thanks for CPUSTAL Medal

The following correction pertains to the item entitled "Castro Expresses Appreciation for CPUSTAL Medal," published in the 3 May Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 1, column two:

Make sourceline read as follows...Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 3 May 88 (correcting date)

Bahamas

Accord With UK Controls Drug Traffickers Assets

FL0405150888 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Agreement has been reached by the Government of the Bahamas and the United Kingdom on investigation of drug trafficking and confiscation and the proceeds from drug trafficking. The agreement was reached during 2 days of discussions here in New Providence.

In a statement announcing the agreement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs says parallel legislation that exists in both countries provides for the reciprocal enforcement of confiscation orders made by the courts in each jurisdiction. The statement says yesterday's agreement attests to the result of the Bahamas Government to cooperate internationally with other interested parties in the endeavor to stamp out illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

The statement says it is the government's conviction that the drug traffickers ought not be able to benefit from illegal activities. The statement says the government views the agreement as an indispensable tool in the tracing and confiscation of illegally obtained assets of drug traffickers.

The agreement will become effective 30 days after each government has notified the other that the respective requirements for its entry into force have been met.

New Court To Expedite Drug-Related Cases

FL0305185988 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] A second drug court opened here in the capital today. The presiding magistrate, Mr (Manuel Izatabay), was officially sworn in this morning by Chief Justice (Tulfu Georges).

The 49-year-old Nigerian-born magistrate served previously on the bench for 10 years.

The new drug court is located in the former building that housed the offices of the CID [not further identified]. The new drug court is to assist in expediting the increasing number of drug matters being brought before the courts.

Dominican Republic

Official Denies Tripartite Talks Failing

FL0405164588 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Engineer Guillermo Caram, technical secretary of the Presidency, has denied that the tripartite talks are at the point of failure. He said that positive steps have been taken during the talks.

According to the Presidency official, 5 of the 10 points raised by the trade unions and business sectors have been met by the government.

Nevertheless, Caram acknowledged that there has been some difficulty agreeing on the rest of the demands even though the government, the church, and the business sector are making an effort to overcome this.

One of the points raised by the trade unions pertaining to the 50 percent subsidy of 10 articles of large consumption is being studied, said Caram. According to the technical secretary of the Presidency, the government would have to spend 981 million pesos annually to subsidize those articles. Caram said that they are studying ways of satisfying this demand.

Radio, TV Import Prohibition Said Step Backward

FL0405205388 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Station commentary: What Is the Difference Between a Basic Product and a Consumer Product?]

[Text] President Joaquin Balaguer has prohibited for 1 year the importation of a number of items that are considered to be consumer goods.

We would never have imagined that appliances and radio and television receivers and transmitters would fall into that category without exception.

These are universally accepted goods. The importance of electronic media in conveying ideas and knowledge is recognized. Radio and television are two powerful mass communications instruments that are at the service of culture, entertainment, information, and the guidance of many sectors.

The prohibition of the import of electronic goods without considering cost, size, or other factors, prevents many Dominicans from having access to information and development. This practice will keep in the dark those who, for different reasons, do not have access to written media because of their geographic distance, economic limitations, or simply because they cannot read.

It is also difficult to justify classifying as consumer products those items that are necessary in daily life, such as glasses, dishes, spoons, and other similar products.

One has to ask: What will happen when there are no more (?bookcases), cutlery, and dishes for the middle and poorer classes of this country?

At this rate, we could return to the Stone Age.

National Electric System 'Virtually Restored'

FL0405221288 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Technicians and workers of the Dominican Electric Corporation have virtually restored the national electric system after it broke down on Tuesday leaving millions of Dominicans without power for hours.

Nevertheless, periodic interruptions continue because the power output is 555,000 kilowatts and the demand is 675,000, resulting in a deficit of 120,000 kilowatts.

The barely perceptible improvement in power is attributed, among other factors, to the addition of the (Cabo) No 1 plant, which currently generates 85,000 kilowatts of power, to the electrical system.

Plant officials have explained that this plant's generator caused the general blackout last Tuesday when it blew a majority of its circuits when it went on line.

In addition to including the (Cabo) No 1 plant to the system, the generators of the Falcon Bridge plant are supplying the corporation with 100,000 kilowatts of power.

Nevertheless, one of the reasons for the current deficit in the supply of energy is that the reservoirs of the dams that are a source of hydroelectric power are low due to lack of rain.

Haiti

Deputies Demand Casecs Results; To Call Celestin

FL0405215188 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 4 May 88

[Excerpts] In the chamber of deputies, Deputy Max Antoine Guerrier yesterday afternoon again asked the executive branch to publish the election results for the Administrative Councils for the Communal Sections, Casecs. In his speech, Deputy Guerrier asked that Prime Minister Martial Celestin be called in. The request was approved by a majority of the assembly, which is to decide later as to when the prime minister will be asked to come in. [passage omitted including indistinct portions]

I will read for you the statement by the president of the chamber of deputies, Mr Jacques St Louis:

I have great difficulty in understanding how in this assembly a deputy can speak of the RDNP [Assembly of Progressive National Democrats; President Manigat's party] being in power, when one considers that out of 104 parliamentarians, only 9 or 10 are from the RDNP. There is no RDNP in power. There is no party in power.

The question these gentlemen should ask themselves is: What would have happened if we others, who are today deputies and who were yesterday candidates, had decided not to participate in the 17 January 1988 elections? What would have happened if we had not decided to have people vote for Leslie Manigat in our electoral districts?

Gentlemen, I must say to you that I want these gentlemen to once and for all understand, and learn, that when one is dissatisfied, when one feels that one has been had, what one has given with one hand one can always be taken away with the other.

That was the startling statement made yesterday afternoon by the president of the Chamber of Deputies, Jacques St Louis, following a speech by Max Antoine Guerrier, who once again brought up the problem of the Casecs.

MIDH Leader Bazin Goes Abroad on 'Mission'

FL0305210788 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Marc Bazin, leader of the MIDH [Movement for the Implantation of Democracy in Haiti], has gone abroad on a mission. Bazin left Port-au-Prince last week on a 15-day mission abroad. He is to go to the United States, Sweden, Portugal, and France, in that order.

Last 27 April Bazin gave a lecture at a law school in Connecticut. The lecture was entitled, The Democratic Transition in Haiti — An Interrupted Agenda.

In Sweden, Mr Bazin will attend a seminar, the theme of which is, The United Nations and Human Rights. He is also to give a lecture in Sweden. In Portugal, Bazin will participate in the annual meeting of the center of the Liberal International. He is the guest of Portuguese Prime Minister Cavaco Silva and of numerous other liberal and social-democratic leaders.

Lastly, Mr Bazin will meet in France with government leaders and leaders of various parties before returning to Port-au-Prince in mid-May.

Dominican Military Delegation Visits Border Town

FL0305175688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Our correspondent in Thiotte informs us that a delegation of high-ranking Dominican military officers, including a Dominican Armed Forces general, visited Anse-a-Pitre last 21 April:

The population of Anse-a-Pitre was visited by a delegation of Dominican military men that included a Dominican Armed Forces general who was in Pedernales on a visit. He was accompanied by Major (Candeliera), the commander of the district of Pedernales, and other Dominican soldiers.

They came on a visit along the border, they said. They entered the town of Anse-a-Pitre, which is right next door to them, just for a visit. They said this was the first occasion on which Major (Candeliera) managed to set foot on Haitian soil in all the time he has been in the Pedernales area.

You will remember that we are in the habit of talking to you about that major, and about the abusive manner in which he is accustomed to treating Haitians in the Anse-a-Pitre area. When they go to buy any little old thing in the area, he arrests them and has them executed by soldiers.

The visit made the population of Anse-a-Pitre do a lot of wondering. They were asking themselves what could interest a high-ranking Dominican military officer, an Armed Forces general, in Anse-a-Pitre.

Three soldiers at the outpost called Thiotte on the wireles telephone to inform the district. The commander of the subdistrict, temporarily substituting for the district commander, who is abroad, went to Anse-a-Pitre accompanied by a team of Haitian soldiers. This was on Friday, 22 April. He obtained information (?as to the purpose) of the visit by these men and returned to Thiotte that same day. He told us the general and the major had paid a friendly visit to Anse-a-Pitre, and that the visit did not mean any danger or any problem for the population of Anse-a-Pitre.

Radio Soleil on 'Wave of Insecurity' in Capital

FL0305173788 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 3 May 88

[Excerpts] For the past few weeks, a wave of insecurity has hit the capital. No night goes by without people hearing bursts of gunfire, and already many citizens have been murdered as they went about their business.

The night before last many bursts of gunfire were heard in the wee hours of the morning in various parts of the capital: in the Lalue, Turgeau, and Avenue Pouplard areas. In fact, in the Pouplard section many residents have told us that they had to sleep on the floor that night, in order not to get shot, the way they were obliged to do prior to 29 November 1987.

The big question being asked is: What exactly is going on? When will the security promised be a reality? Also, when will normal life truly resume?

In a statement he made over RTNH [national radio and TV] on 27 April, the president said, in answer to a question, and we quote: We have been reproached for saying there would be no witch-hunts. [passage omitted] He then said: However, what we ourselves are today saying is that the people benefiting from this policy of social reconciliation should not forget that a certain regime was in fact overthrown on 7 February 1986—and for very specific reasons. [passage omitted] They must not be too quick to forget.

The newspaper LE MATIN, which carried these statements in its 28 April edition, feels that the president was in this way implicating members of the former regime in the criminal actions aimed at disturbing public order in Haiti.

Peasants Complain of Meeting With Minister

FL0305215088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Here is the report from the peasant delegates who met with the minister of agriculture on 29 April:

We small peasants, members of small grassroots parishes, MPP [Papaye Peasants Movement], Caritas, Misyon Alfa, "Tet Ansanm" [Cooperative Action Group], youth organizations, and so forth, from the four corners of Haiti, went to Damien [School of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, which houses the Ministry of Agriculture] on 29 April 1988 to meet with agronomists and Agriculture Minister Gerard Philippe Auguste as we had announced.

We went there in the name of all the organizations we represent, to hear from him when the state was planning to replace all the pigs Peppadep killed and the 1,500 creole pigs Caritas was going to import from Jamaica. We also went there to find out on what date each of us would get our share of the creole pigs.

In addition to ourselves, the minister had several bigshots sitting with him at the meeting who had been high-ranking Peppadep officials.

How did the meeting go? First, it lasted more than 3 hours. There was a lot of talk. It could have taken less time if the ministry officials had been willing to get to the point right away. The minister talked to us about a lot of countries we know nothing about in order to drag the talks out so we would become discouraged.

Although we were well received, they did not let us talk. He did not want us to cut him off. But he did not know who he was dealing with! We had not traveled all that distance just to come say: Yes, Mr Minister. All right, Mr Minister! The truth is evident. The authorities always think that their ideas should prevail. At times we felt the minister getting annoyed because he had found peasants who told him they did not agree with him.

During all this talk, the minister and his acolytes tried to tell us that the imported pigs were better for us peasants. To them, creole pigs are trash, like our vile rice, vile chickens, and vile turkeys. Creole pigs are trash that no other country wants. However, we ourselves know that in the Dominican Republic the government is doing everything it can to save what is left of these trashy pigs, of those that did not perish at the hands of Peppadep.

Actually, they intended to bluff us. We feel it is sad to see an important learned man not be ashamed to stand there in front of us and tell us that what we need are imported pigs and that he can adapt them, once we have them.

They also told us to be sure not to let others stir us up and make us think imported pigs are no good for us. We could see clearly that the learned man never sets foot in the rural areas to see what is going on in Haiti, to see how there are no woods left because there are no creole pigs and because the peasants cannot care for imported pigs.

Lastly, the minister explained to us that he has reached an agreement with Caritas to give it 75 or 100 piglets per month from the Thomassin center. He told us these pigs were of another breed that might be good for the peasants.

There are 562 communal sections in Haiti. What can 75 or 100 pigs do for the Haitian peasants? Won't all the trees get cut down first? Won't the country disappear before this? What about Peppadep's promise to replace the pigs?

The minister answered that he had no money. In fact, the state had received $23 million to kill the pigs. They distributed $9 million of this money as reparation: $40 for big pigs, $20 for medium-sized pigs, and $5 for little pigs. Where is the remaining $14 million?

The state is not going to do anything for the peasants. We see that we cannot count on the bigshots. We knew the meeting with the minister was not the only solution.

Today we see that we must continue to struggle. The pressure we exerted gave them headaches. We must now pressure them even harder. Today we see that it is up to us to take our own business in hand.

That was the report from the peasant organizations from all over the country that met with the minister of agriculture on 29 April 1988 in connection with creole pigs.

Jamaica

Seaga To Ask Paris Club To Reschedule Debt

FL0405230088 Bridgetown CANA in English
2047 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 4, CANA—Jamaica will ask the Paris Club this year to reschedule U.S.90 million dollars in debt payments falling due up to March next year, Prime Minister Edward Seaga, disclosed Wednesday. The amount involved for this year's programme (is) some 90 million dollars, Seaga told journalists at a news conference. The country will not seek rescheduling of commercial bank debts.

Seaga, who is also the finance minister, expects formal negotiations with the Paris Club — which coordinates the debt strategy of major Western countries — to begin in September after Jamaica puts in place a new agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

I don't think that we will be able to go to the Paris Club until sometime in September, said Seaga whose government Tuesday night outlined an economic programme predicting economic growth at an average four per cent a year over the next three years.

Jamaica is this month completing a U.S.150 million dollar stand-by agreement with the IMF and is already in talks with the fund for an additional U.S.90 million dollars of credit. The government is confident that the IMF negotiations will go smoothly and that a new pact will be ready for the funds executive board in August. Jamaica has a foreign debt of U.S.4 billion dollars. Until recently the debt was being quoted as U.S.3.5 billion dollars, but has now been revalued to take into account the real devaluation of the U.S. dollar against the currencies of other countries in which Jamaica holds debts.

Only about 12 per cent of Jamaica's debt is owed to commercial banks, with the remainder owned to multilateral and bilateral lenders, including the Paris Club.

Last year the club rescheduled U.S.125 million dollars of Jamaican debts falling due between March 1987 and March 1988. The rescheduling for 10 years with five years grace, covered 100 per cent of principal and 85 per cent of interest. It is expected that Jamaica will seek similar terms this year.

Commercial banks last year agreed to reschedule U.S.181 million dollars in Jamaican principal payments which would have fallen due between April 1985 and March 1990. The agreement, which did not cover interest payments, stretched repayments up to 1999 with an 8 and 1/2 year grace period.

Debt servicing now accounts for over 40 per cent of Jamaica's budgetary expenditure and 48 per cent of earnings from goods and services — even after rescheduling. The debt is 134 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP). The government is projecting that by 1990 it will reduce the payments ratio to 36.2 per cent and to 21.8 per cent by 1995-96.

Trinidad and Tobago

Indian Vice President Arrives for 3-Day Visit

FL0205214588 Bridgetown CANA in English
1446 GMT 2 May 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 2, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson has spoken out against the nuclear arms race during a visit here by Indian Vice President Shankar Dayal Sharma. Trinidad and Tobago shares with India the vision of a nuclear-free world, Robinson told a banquet on Sunday night in honour of Sharma, who arrived here earlier in the day at the start of the three-day visit.

Robinson said his country looked forward to a world in which the material resources liberated through disarmament can be channelled for development and for the relief of global poverty. Robinson said the six nation peace initiative currently being promoted by India had not only an intrinsic moral value but nullified any claims that nuclear disarmament was the exclusive domain of the world's superpowers. Such a claim ignores the destructive power of these weapons, the enormous resources diverted to their production and the serious threat they pose to the security and development of all nations, Robinson said.

The visit, which moves into a series of official meetings on Monday and exchanges with various interest groups in Trinidad's multi-racial society, began with of messages of co-operation.

The people of Indian and African origin whose forefathers came to the Caribbean more than a century ago have both contributed in good measure to the prosperity of their new nation, Trinidad and Tobago, Sharma told the banquet.

Robinson said he hoped the Caribbean republic would be able to reciprocate some of the provisions already being made by India to this country under a 1985 cooperation agreement. Trinidad expects to receive a new Indian cultural centre under the agreement and already receives scholarships for a variety of subjects in India.

Sharma Ends Visit

FL0505003488 Bridgetown CANA in English 2310 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 4, CANA—India's vice president Dr. Shankae Sharma left Trinidad on Wednesday at the end of a three-day official visit for Guyana.

Dr. Sharma, who arrived here on Sunday afternoon, conducted a whirlwind tour of the twin island republic, meeting a number of different groups within Trinidad's multi-ethnic society. Surrounded by a large official escort, Dr. Sharma whizzed around the country meeting with head of state, President Noor Hassanali, Prime Minister A.N.R. Robinson, Port-of-Spain and San Fernando City councillors, and local business groups.

Dr. Sharma was given the key to the city of Port-of-Spain, the nation's capital, and treated to a cultural show earlier this week. His wife, Vimla, was taken on a separate tour on Tuesday meeting with local retarded childen, female cabinet ministers, and wives of ministers.

Dr. Sharma and his entourage has moved on to Guyana for a similar visit.

Guatemala

Reconciliation Group, URNG Envoys Meet

PA0405211288 Paris AFP in Spanish 0536 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] San Jose, 3 May (AFP)—Guatemala guerrilla envoys held a brief meeting here with that country's National Reconciliation Commission (CNR) to reach a date for talks regarding a possible dialogue between the rebels and the government.

"The CNR will merely lend its services regarding the talks to reach a later dialogue," CNR President Msgr Rodolfo Quezada said. He had met with Hector Nuila and other URNG envoys.

This week there could be a broader meeting between the URNG, which comprises Guatemala's leftist armed forces, and the CNR. The Guatemalan Government entrusted the CNR with the task of establishing contacts with the rebels to study the possibilities of begining a dialogue to end the 27-year-old armed struggle.

The CNR's of Central America have been meeting since Monday in San Jose. These commissions were created to comply with the Esquipulas II regional peace agreement, which was signed in August by the area presidents.

Commenting on the work by the Guatemalan CNR, Quezada said: "We are presently facing two major concerns: first, to propitiate a national dialogue that is as broad as possible with all the social sectors; and second, to serve as intermediaries for the negotiations between the government and the insurgent forces."

Nicaragua

Ortega Expresses Willingness for U.S. Dialogue

PA0505042688 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] Today Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega Saavedra reaffirmed the revolutionary government's willingness to hold bilateral talks on 15 May with the Reagan administration to discuss matters not connected with the domestic affairs of either country.

The comrade president demanded that the United States obey international law, and he added that Nicaragua has never attacked nor threatened U.S. sovereignty. He added that the United States ought to obey the ruling of the The Hague International Court of Justice, cease being Nicaragua's enemy, and start developing relations based on mutual respect.

President Daniel Ortega stated that peace will be that much closer if the United States obeys and respects the laws of the United Nations, the Security Council, and the International Court of Justice.

Upon receiving the new U.S. ambassador's credentials, President Ortega expressed concern because a large majority of the U.S. population demands national reconciliation. There ought to be a more even distribution of riches among the U.S. population and a perfection of democracy by abolishing unemployment and discrimination.

'Massive' Arrest of Opposition Leaders Reported

PA0405203688 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1940 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Managua, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)—Today the police carried out a massive arrest of Nicaraguan opposition leaders who were about to pay a solidarity visit to the 38 workers who have been on a hunger strike in Managua for the past 10 days. The participants in the hunger strike, who are supporting construction workers and auto mechanics who have been on strike for more than 2 months, are carrying out their protest at the national headquarters of the General Confederation of Independent Workers (CGTI).

Political sources reported that leaders from 14 opposition political parties were captured by a special police force known as the "Black Berets."

The massive arrest occurred shortly before noon today when the opposition leaders were leaving a meeting at the Social Democratic Party (PSD) offices, 100 meters from the Interior Ministry building.

The arrested politicians are the same ones who had been participating in the national dialogue—suspended since 26 April—as main delegates, deputy delegates, or advisers to the 14 political opposition parties.

Witnesses reported that some 60 "Black Berets" policemen surrounded the politicians, forced them to board a small bus, and took them to a police station in Managua's Las Brisas neighborhood.

At the military post, police Commander Doris Tijerino charged the political leaders with "provoking the authorities," Allan Zambrana told ACAN-EFE. Zambrana, a Communist deputy, was among those arrested, but he was released later. Communist Deputy Ariel Bravo Lorio and Socialist Deputy Adolfo Evertz Velez, who had been arrested despite being members of the National Assembly, were also released.

According to sources, opposition leaders who were not deputies remain in detention.

At the PSD headquarters, lawyers for that political group announced that they were immediately filing an appeal with a Managua court "because it is no crime to attend an indoor political meeting."

Among those politicians arrested are PSD Secretary General Guillermo Potoy, Nicaraguan Social Christian Party [PSCN] National President Erick Ramirez, and Communist Party of Nicaragua Secretary General Eli Altamirano Sanchez.

Other detained opposition members were identified by political sources as Adan Morales Hernandez, Adolfo Jarquin Ortel, Antonio Bonilla Aguilar, Felix Montes Aguilar, Jaime Bonilla, Armando Sanchez, Marcos Herrera, Luisa Elena Larios, Manuel Guillen, Lombardo Martinez Cabezas, Rodolfo Robelo, Juan Gaitan, Narcisco Lacayo, and Juan Jarquin.

Augusto Jarquin Anaya, another high-ranking PSCN leader, was also arrested by the "Black Berets," but at the "Metrocentro" parking lot, 100 meters away from the CGTI headquarters.

Jarquin Anaya was alone and heading to the CGTI headquarters when he was intercepted by policemen, arrested and led away to an undisclosed location.

Around the same "Metrocentro" area, PSCN leader Armando Guadamuz Gonzalez was also arrested while speaking to reporters about the case of opposition leader Chester Guevarra, who was detained by the police several days ago.

The CTGI headquarters, where the hunger strike is taking place, continues to be surrounded by dozens of policemen, who are not allowing anyone to approach the building. Reporters covering the events are kept 100 meters from the strikers.

PSC Officials Detained

PA0405182188 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1715 GMT 4 May 88

[Report by Jose Luis Zapata from the General Confederation of Independent Workers headquarters]

[Text] [Zapata] A few minutes ago Agustin Jarquin Anaya, president of one of the factions of the Social Christian Party [PSC], was detained together with Armando Guadamuz Gonzalez, PSC acting secretary general, and an unidentified person opposite the CGTI headquarters when they were passing in front [circulando] of the PSC headquarters. So far the other political party representatives, who said they would be supporting the striking workers from 1000 today, have not turned up...

[Announcer, interrupting] Let's get this straight. Where were they arrested, at the CGTI or at the PSC headquarters?

[Zapata] They were passing in front of the CGTI on the road to Masaya—Agustin Jarquin Anaya, Armando Guadamuz Gonzalez, and an unidentified person.

[Announcer] Why were they arrested?

[Zapata] This could not be determined because they started arguing with one of the security personnel who were there to keep people from gathering opposite the CGTI and were arrested. Please note that at the CGTI there are numerous policemen who are there to prevent accidents...

[Announcer, interrupting] We ask that the Sandinist police comrades to please tell us the reasons these people were arrested. Please remain on the line.

Opposition Leaders Released

PA0505043288 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] This afternoon Javier Lopez, deputy national commander of the Sandinist police, stated that the people who had been arrested near the General Labor Confederation offices for disturbing public order were released. The names of the released prisoners are: Aurora Carmona Hernandez, Danelia del Carmen Alvarez Hernandez, Felix Jose Tuckler O'Mier, Victor Manuel Reyes Mora, Francisco Antonio Martinez, Edgar Napoleon Chavarria, Blanca Concepcion Ortega, Guillermina Garcia Duarte, Mario Alberto Balmaceda, Jose Tomas Silva, Felix Antonio Acevedo, Ramiro Alonso Medina, Francisco Javier Dominguez Garcia, and Daniel Pacheco Gomez.

FRG's Wischnewski on Contra Talks, German Role

LD0405142988 Hamburg DPA in German 1341 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—SPD [Social Democratic Party of Germany] politician Hans-Juergen Wischnewski sees the process for lasting peace in Nicaragua as being in a "critical phase." The main reason for this is quarrels and disunity on the part of the military resistance against the Sandinist government, Wischnewski said today in Bonn after his return from the talks.

According to Wischnewski, who is taking part in the talks as an adviser to the leadership in Managua, there are still basic differences between the two sides. The government wants to reach a comprehensive agreement while the contras are pressing for partial settlements.

The talks in Managua ended last week. The cease-fire agreed to runs out at the end of May. A new time and place for the continuation have not yet been arranged. Wischnewski hopes an agreement will be achieved on this and that the talks can be continued in mid-May.

He reacted positively to the Federal Government's thoughts on the Federal Republic playing a role in overseeing the peace agreement between the Central American states. He thinks Bonn should not draw back from such a task. However, participation by the Bundeswehr in this is a nonstarter. More worthy of consideration for this job are policemen or experts from the Foreign Ministry. Wischnewski stressed that German participation is not a matter of overseeing an agreement

in Nicaragua; this is solely the affair of the president of the National Reconciliation Commission, Cardinal Miguel Orbando y Bravo, as well as the OAS.

The time for a reinstatement of Bonn's development aid to Nicaragua had not yet come. As Wischnewski announced, a decision on this has been postponed by the Bundestag's Foreign Affairs Committee today. The attempt is to be made to find a common solution between all the groups.

The Federal Government does not intend to send German soldiers to Nicaragua. By this statement Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl refuted press reports on relevant plans. According to government spokesman Friedhelm Ost, the chancellor made it clear that this is true both for members of the Bundeswehr in uniform and in civilian clothes. Over the past few days deputies from the SPD and the CDU [Christian Democratic Union] had proposed the deployment of German soldiers to oversee peace in Central America up for debate.

Panama

Noriega Willing To Talk to U.S., Opposition

PA0405204888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1954 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Panama City, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)—Today General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP], said he is willing to "talk" with the United States and the Panamanian political opposition to seek a solution to Panama's crisis.

In brief statements to the press after watching a training exercise performed by members of the militia being trained by the Panamanian Army to confront a possible U.S. military invasion, Noriega said "we can talk to them (with the U.S. Government) as long as this is done with respect."

Likewise, the high-ranking military chief said he is "willing to talk (with the opposition) because we are Panamanians. Therefore, there is no problem."

When asked about a date for the beginning of talks with the opposition, which is demanding that he leave office, the soldier said: "When (my opposers) get permission from their masters." Noriega was referring to the United States.

Noriega also said he would be willing to "give" power to former President Arnulfo Arias Madrid, but in 1989 and only if he wins the presidential elections "vote by vote."

FDP Commander Noriega and his general staff attended the training exercises of the so-called "Dignity Battalion." The battalion is made up of civilians—men and women—who are receiving basic military training.

At a stadium, located on one side of the Army's general headquarters, approximately 800 militiamen, carrying unloaded "M-16" rifles and many Panamanian flags, shouted slogans against the opposition and the U.S. Government and Army.

With only a month of training, the soldiers responsible for the training of the militia—there are approximately 7,000 militiamen throughout the country—feel they are ready to confront a U.S. invasion.

However, the militia group only performed basic, advance, and position maneuvers and demonstrated their first aid skills.

Comments on Talks

PA0505002888 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2320 GMT 4 May 88

[Excerpts] Today the Dignity Battalion celebrated its 1 month anniversary with a visit by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces, members of his general staff, and metropolitan corregimiento representatives. [passage omitted]

At the end of the event, Gen Noriega made statements to the press and said he is willing to talk with the United States and the Panamanian opposition.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Would you be willing to talk with them?

[Noriega] We are willing to talk with anyone. We can talk with them, too, as long as there is respect.

[Question indistinct]

[Noriega] We do not speak of negotiations. We mean talks.

[Reporter] What do you think of Arnulfo Arias? Do you think he has a chance to return?

[Noriega] Sure, why not, in 1989.

[Reporter] Do you support him?

[Noriega] No. [laughter] Let him win through votes.

[Reporter] Are you willing to talk with the Panamanian opposition?

[Noriega] We are willing to talk because we are Panamanians. We are Panamanians, so there is no problem.

[Reporter] When will this dialogue be held?

[Noriega] When they ask their masters for permission, then they will sit down [to talk]. [end recording]

Foreign Minister on L.A., Cuban Support
FL0505014288 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 5 May 88

["Excerpts" of interview with Foreign Minister Dr Jorge Ritter by correspondent Nelson Notario Castro at the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Notario Castro] Does Panama continue to be a nonaligned country?

[Ritter] It continues to be nonaligned, and it is strengthening this position now.

[Notario Castro] How will Panamanian foreign policy be with regard its Latin American and Caribbean neighbors?

[Ritter] Panama very much appreciates Latin America's solidarity. It has been as great now as it was when General Omar Torrijos called for Latin America's solidarity to finally reach the canal treaties. Likewise, Panama gives its solidarity, to the degree it can, to the countries that are about to be attacked, although I do not believe it would be as brutal as Panama has experienced. Panama has a very well-defined foreign policy. We have not changed our foreign policy toward the rest of Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia as a result of the U.S. attacks. Those countries are going to continue to find in Panama's foreign policy the same soundness and the same solidarity as usual.

[Notario Castro] Do you have a message for our people who have followed very closely Panama's problems and have expressed solidarity?

[Ritter] I believe I have to send a message of gratitude on behalf of the Panamanian people because the Cuban people have always shown their solidarity. At the peak of the discredit campaign the United States staged against Gen Noriega, when U.S. congressmen and government representatives were competing to see which one of them could come up with the worst description of Panama, Cuba's government and leaders, Cuban president Commander in Chief Fidel Castro appeared on U.S. television and made public his position on and support of Panama. This and the solidarity of the Cuban people, as they have done on previous occasions, is always going to have the gratitude of the Panamanian people.

[Notario Castro] Thank you very much, Mr Foreign Minister, for your remarks for this newscast. Thank you.

Demonstrators Released After Paying Fines
PA0505132188 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0153 GMT 5 May 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 4 May (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Panamanian police released 22 people arrested during disorders here last week, lawyer Alvin Weeden reported. The detainees were released after paying fines. [passage omitted]

Still under arrest in this city are at least six followers of the National Civic Crusade, who were arrested hours before the protest and who were allegedly linked to a subversive plan reported by Attorney General Carlos Villalaz. [passage omitted]

Argentina

Navy Chief on Possible Cessation of Hostilities

PY041755 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1650 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Punta Indio, Buenos Aires Province, 4 May (NA)—Today Navy Chief of Staff Vice Admiral Ramon Arosa stated that an eventual Argentine declaration of a de jure cessation of hostilities in the conflict with Great Britain over the sovereignty of the Malvinas Islands "will be the path to reach a solution that will satisfy both parties."

Arosa made a statement at noon today at the Punta Indio Navy airbase, where he presided over the ceremony marking naval aviation day, which recalls the day Navy aircraft sank the British battleship [as received] "Sheffield" in 1982.

The Navy chief of staff added that the Navy is today "in better operational conditions" and with "better war power than in 1982." He was thus referring to the inclusion of two new Argentine-made missile-equipped frigates and German submarines.

Regarding the cessation of hostilities with Great Britain, he said that it is included in a government decision to channel the Malvinas conflict to diplomatic talks.

Arosa said that national sovereignty "is not something merely to be talked about." He also said that the Navy's operational situation has improved in the past year.

He also expressed confidence that "the United States will grant an important contribution for reequipment." He said that "the deal carried out with Israel for the purchase of 15 A-4M planes has failed, and Argentina has already paid for those planes."

This deal was prevented by the U.S. blockade against Argentina, and now the Defense Ministry is negotiating the refund of the money.

Arosa stated that "it is difficult to think of reequipping Argentine naval aviation with anything other than U.S.-made equipment."

Nuclear Cooperation Accord Signed With Turkey

PY031906 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1801 GMT 3 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 3 May (TELAM)—This afternoon Argentine International Relations Secretary Susana Ruiz Cerutti and Turkish Ambassador in Argentina Gunduz Tuncbilek signed a cooperation agreement for the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

According to the information released by the Argentine Foreign Ministry, this is a framework agreement that encompasses several specific areas of cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy ranging from development of nuclear reactors to the training of technical and professional personnel.

The accord also deals with production of fuel elements, prospecting for the exploitation of nuclear minerals, security at nuclear installations, and basic research.

As far as training of technicians and professionals goes, the accord establishes scholarships and provides for the creation of joint working groups and the exchange of information.

The accord will be implemented by the Argentine National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA) and the Turkish Atomic Energy Authority (TAER).

Cooperation Talks With Spain Conclude

PY050327 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 5 May 88

[Text] The Argentine-Spanish talks on bilateral cooperation and friendship concluded in Buenos Aires today. According to the cooperation agreements, it is expected that approximately $3 billion will be invested here through low interest rate credits.

Luis Jaime, Argentine under secretary of fisheries, is holding talks in Madrid to improve the exploitation of Argentine fishing resources. Jaime said that Spanish cooperation is important for improving fishing exploitation.

International Airspace Company Formed

PY042330 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1444 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 4 May (TELAM)—President Raul Alfonsin has approved the formation of the "Argentine Manufacturers of Airspace Materiel, Inc." [FAMA] (Fabrica Argentina de Materiales Aeroespaciales Sociedad Anonima), a joint venture of the "Cordoba Materiel Area," "Aeritalia-Societa Aerospaziale Italiana," and the "Techint International Technical Co."

Executive branch Decree No 492 was signed by President Alfonsin, Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille, Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia, and the Finance Ministry secretary, and published by the official bulletin today.

The decree states that the preliminary protocol and documents signed between the Defense Ministry and the Air Force and the companies "Aeritalia" and "Techint" adequately combine the advantages of working with the

private sector in areas that until now were reserved for the public sector and the protection of national strategic interests, despite the fact that the state holds a minority of shares.

The decree adds that the Cordoba Materiel Area, which is administered by the Air Force, must be reorganized to respond to the demands of the national and international markets.

The decree says that the development of a national industry that is responsive to civilian and military needs and that carries out the strategy of growth to which the country is committed is of interest to national development and national defense.

According to the decree, the foreign firms will provide the experience and funds.

"Aeritalia" has 720 days from the date of establishment of the new enterprise to purchase shares worth 880,000 australes with U.S. dollars. Aeritalia pledged to do this in the deal establishing the firm.

The decree adds that the Defense Ministry and the Air Force, in accordance with prevailing government economic policies, sought the joint venture of the state and private national and foreign firms to make the greatest possible use of goods, services, and trained personnel.

The decree declares the activity of FAMA to be in the national interest.

Two Bombs Explode in Santa Fe; No Casualties

PY042134 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 4 May 88

[Excerpt] Santa Fe, 4 May (NA)—Two medium-sized bombs exploded early this morning at the house of Judge Guillermo Torre Alday and at the offices of Lawyer Luis Rossman, a former director of the Santa Fe Provincial Bank. The explosions caused some damage, but no casualties.

Judge Ramiro Puyol is carrying out the investigation into the two cases, but so far there have been no positive results.

The two bombs exploded only minutes apart and caused minor damage to the walls of the two premises. There were no casualties.

According to several members of the bomb squad of the local police, the two bombs were planted with the exclusive purpose of intimidating the owners of the premises.

This afternoon sources close to the investigation announced that both attacks had the intention of "frightening" Torre Alday and Rossman, who was director of the Provincial Bank of Santa Fe during Governor Jose Vernet's tenure.

It has been learned that both Torre Alday and Rossman are linked to the bankruptcy cases of some local enterprises. Therefore, it is thought that the attacks had the intention of intimidating both men.

Judge Puyol immediately began his investigation into the two cases, which, according to some members of the bomb squad, "do not have any political implications." [passage omitted]

Brazil

Army Occupies Three Furnas Power Plants

PY050018 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The Army has occupied three Furnas electricity power plants, and the government has confirmed that it will punish workers who paralyze essential services.

Presidential Spokesman Carlos Henrique has evaluated the 2d day of the strike and confirmed that the Army has occupied three Furnas plants in Ibiuna, Cahoeira Paulista, and Tumbiara.

[Begin Henrique recording] The strike has begun to diminish. Many categories of employees observed the strike in practically all the states. However, the strike has not spread as we expected.

Several plants are still on strike, and workers are holding assemblies. The strike movement has started to die.

Some employees have been dismissed, for example, in the Vale do Rio Doce Company. Today at dawn, the Army occupied the Furnas plants in Ibiuna, Cachoeria Paulista, and Tumbiara. The fuel supply to Petrobras has returned to normal without problems.

Despite the fact that the government is maintaining this situation with calmness, I must clearly state that the government will punish those who paralyze essential services. [end recording]

By the end of this afternoon, Labor Minister Almir Pazzianoto gave President Sarney a detailed report on the state employees strike in the whole country.

Government To Upgrade PLO Office to Embassy

PY041517 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1424 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Brasilia, 4 May (EFE)—Today the newspaper JORNAL DO BRASIL reported that the Brazilian Government will upgrade to the rank of embassy, before July 1988, the office that the PLO has run in Brasilia for the past 10 years.

JORNAL DO BRASIL, which cites a confidential Brazilian Government source, states that President Jose Sarney's decision will probably coincide with the arrival of PLO Foreign Minister Faruq Qaddumi scheduled for the end of June.

The Brazilian Government has just shown a new gesture of goodwill toward the PLO by official welcoming 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahia, PLO minister of education and economic affairs, who is a member of the ministerial delegation of the Arab League, accompanying Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

The presence of the PLO minister at the official dinner given by the Brazilian Government to the Arab delegation is quite significant. Present at the dinner were President Sarney and the Army, justice, housing, and foreign ministers.

Government Condemns Israeli Invasion of Lebanon

PY[illegible]046 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The Brazilian Government has condemned the Israeli invasion of southern Lebanon. In an official communique released by Itamaraty, the Brazilian Government stated that Lebanese political and territorial sovereignty must be respected.

CONCEX Approves New Trade Resolutions

PY050051 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Today the National Council on Foreign Trade, CONCEX, approved resolutions to modernize the bureaucratic process of the importation of nonferrous metal products and to allow importation of machinery and equipment without foreign financing.

A third resolution was announced by CONCEX Executive Secretary Namir Salek:

[Begin Salek recording] The third resolution, which is very important, grants permission to trade agriculture products. We will now import and export with more expeditious regulations, so as to allow the country to export at a high exchange rate and import at a low exchange rate. [end recording]

Colombia

Kidnappings Carried Out To Criticize Oil Policy

PA0405132688 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] Bogota—The dissemination of a document questioning Colombia's oil policy, especially the participation of foreign companies, is reportedly the aim of the publicity stunt carried out by the pro-Castro ELN [Army of National Liberation], which kidnapped several honorary consuls, newsmen, and political leaders.

Anonymous sources of the leftist group headed by Spanish priest Manuel Perez claimed responsibility for the kidnappings. They identified themselves as members of the Manuel Gustavo Chacon Sovereignty Operation, which was named in honor of the leader of the powerful [name indistinct] labor union of Ecopetrol [Colombian Petroleum Enterprise], murdered in Barrancabermeja in February.

According to the terrorist group, the hostages will be taken to undisclosed locations and will be given a document addressed to the Colombian Government and the international community. The document will reiterate the insurgent group's criticism of Colombia's oil production infrastructure, which includes several foreign companies, many of them European.

French Confirm Disappearance

LD0405134588 Paris Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 4 May 88

[Text] The French Government has confirmed that the press attache at the French Embassy in Bogota, Jean-Christophe (Rampal), did indeed disappear last Friday. Officially, though, France does not mention a kidnapping—it simply expresses its concern following the wave of kidnappings of foreign diplomats by the extreme left-wing guerrilla movement.